THE DECLARATION OF Thomas Lord Fairfax,

And the reſt of the Lords, Knights, Eſquires, Citizens, Miniſters and Freeholders of the County and City of YORK.

WHereas this Famous County, Honoured formerly for its puiſſance and ſtrength by which they have always been taken for the Bulwork of this Nation, are now reputed ſo inconſiderable that they have not at this time a Repreſentative in Parliament: and being deeply ſenſible of the Confuſions and Diſtractions of the Nation, the particular Decay and Ruine of the Cloathing-Trade of this County, which neceſſarily bears an influence upon the Publick: as alſo the Future Evils that will attend this *Vacancy of Government* during the imperfection and incompleatneſs of *Our Parliaments*, whoſe entireneſs, and *Full Number* hath been in *all Times* (as to a *Right Engliſh Conſtitution*) the only *Conſervative* of our *Liberties*.

We the *Lords, Knights, Eſquires, Gentlemen, Miniſters* and *Citizens* aforeſaid do Declare, That we finde a *Corrupt Intereſt* in the preſent Government, abetted by *Factious Parties*, and carried on with an *Irreconciliable Violence* againſt our Peace: Predominant, and ſitting at the Helm, whereby the *Freedom* and *Liberty* of the *Subject* is ſo far *endangered*, that we judge it paſt Application, or any other *Wording Remedy* to Retrive it. And as this is not only our own opinion, but the *general Senſe of the Nation*, fruitleſly hitherto made known to the World: We will therefore allow our ſelves the precedency of *Aſſerting* and *Defending* the *juſtice* of this our *Common Right* by open *Armes*, if no other preſent Temperament and Expedient can be adjuſted or fitted for our Grievances.

We do therefore require *A Free and Full Parliament* to be ſtraitwith Convened, according to the Directions and Proviſions made in the *Act for the Triennial Parliament*; the intent and deſign whereof, after ſuch a *bloody Conteſt* we may not ſee eluded and fruſtrated with *ſtrange VOTES* and *Qualifications*: Therefore we deſire a *Free Parliament*, or elſe the return of the *ſecluded Members* by the force of the Army in 1648. (to which his Lordſhip Proteſts he was unwittingly and unwarily acceſſory) to the remaining Diſcharge of their *Truſt*, they having given *ſingular* and *ſuperlative* evidence of their *capacity* and *fitneſs* for it, by their *wiſe* and *judicious moderation*.

We ſhall in their *Wiſdom* and *Counſels* acquieſce, and otherwiſe ſhall not be ſatisfied, for that our preſſing *Calamities* will give no *Reſt* to the Kingdom, till theſe our *Deſires* are accompliſhed. To which purpoſe, we have at this our *general Meeting* or *Rendevouz*. Signed this our Declaration to be forthwith Communicated to the *NATION*.

Signed

Leeds Febr. 13. 1659.

Thomas Fairfax, &c.

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